

West Michigan Jazz Society

Board Meeting Minutes

May 27, 2020 6:00 pm
Zoom

I. Call to order/Roll Call at 6:09PM

Present: Jake Vanderheyden, Jerry Scott, Michelle Needham, Jim Reed, Peni Reed, John Miller, Dan Ohlman

Absent: Tim Froncek, Mary Reed

Guests: Lauren Starke, Shannan Denison

II. Approval of minutes from last meeting

John motioned to approve, Peni seconded. All in favor.

III. Review and Approval of Financials

John motioned to approve, Jake seconded. All in favor with the revision Jim made.

IV. Open issues

A. Jazz at Millennium Park/Virtual Jazz concerts update

WMJS will not be hosting jazz in the park in person this summer. Jerry said that bands that WMJS scheduled this summer can take a future date for jazz gumbo events and Jazz in the Park in 2021 if we are able to operate events again.

B. Musician of the Year Event Watermark Country Club/Jazz Gumbo 2020-2021

The event will be cancelled in 2020 due to the financial risk and limited venue capacity. Jerry suggested that we postpone the Musician of the Year until next year (and even other future events). Jim suggested that we could spread out guests into different banquet rooms at large facilities. WMJS jazz gumbo events may also need to be postponed this fall.

C. Art Prize Sunday Series

Tabled until we know more about WMJS artist funding and if the event is going to happen still.

D. Collaborations (GR Noir, Listening Room)

Jake mentioned that it would be a good opportunity to host live streams from venues.

V. New business

A. Women Who Care – Email from Shannan Denison dated 5/21/20 – Potential to be winning benefactor of over \$18K.

Shannan talked to Local Spins, SpeakeEZ, and One Trick Pony about potential events. The City of Grand Rapids (and other cities in the area) is going to start implementing “social zones” for restaurant patrons, music may be able to be hosted there. Shannan suggested that we could start fundraisers to support venues and artists through the pandemic crisis. There might be drive-in live music at Fifth Third Ballpark. House concerts are also another opportunity for artists to play. Most restaurants are already thinking about the struggle of continuing to operate at half capacity. WMJS has an opportunity to help the community to keep live music alive now and after the pandemic is over. John suggested that we also could subsidize musicians for the remainder of the year somehow.

B. The Sunday Goodtime Hour – Michelle knows the host (Glen) that is working with Local Spins among others to build a variety show of comedy and music on their radio program. Michelle said that we could talk about the jazz society and have a musician play on the show also. It is on Facebook, YouTube, amongst other platforms. Mary Reed or Mark Kahny could possibly represent WMJS with their music.

C. “Drive Thru” Jazz Festival

Jake proposed an event (possibly at Amore Trattoria) to host local musicians while patrons of the curbside service pickup their dinner and listen to live music. WMJS can either fund 1 event on our own or three events if we had someone collaborating to share the load. The WMJS budget would be \$600 for 1 event or \$200 (three separate events).

VI. WMJS Board Committee Updates

A. Executive/Strategic Planning Committee – WMJS needs to start fundraising again with donors

B. Nominating Committee – Peni Reed up for 2nd Term. Shannan Denison would like to join again, and Michelle left message for Jordan VanHemert.

All candidates are approved for nomination, they will be voted on at the June WMJS board meeting. Jerry motioned to approve the nomination of Shannan and Jordan to the WMJS board. Dan seconded this. All in favor.

C. Jazz Program Committee – chair Jerry Scott – see above, Jerry will contact booked musicians

D. Treasury Committee – chair Jim Reed

1. Budget for 2020 – membership renewal and donations are critical.

2. Planned Estate Giving – Work with Shannan Denison – Seminar/action plan TBD

E. Marketing/Communications Committee – chair Jake Vanderheyden

1. Update on Facebook nonprofit profile for donations

2. West Michigan Jazz Society Summit/Congress idea

Tabled until large gatherings are able to resume again in the distant future. Jake mentioned that we could host an event on Zoom.

F. Membership Committee – Need Chair (Board Member) for this Committee

a) Incentives from establishments – on hold until new venues recruited

2. Membership down – Lauren was doing some work on this reaching out to people.

WMJS got 11 new memberships, luckily many have joined in as donor level members. 277 previous members have not renewed, which is an expected \$6,500-\$8,500 loss of revenue in 2020. Michelle will pull together a letter for members who have not renewed.

G. Scholarship Committee – chair John Miller

1. Fund balance decrease – Need to encourage more members to contribute

The C.A.R.E.S. act now allows \$300 or less above the line tax deduction over a standard deduction (any 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization).

H. Education Committee – chair Tim Froncek (absent)

VII. Adjournment at 7:45pm John motioned, Jerry seconded.

Next Meeting will be the annual election of board members and officer elections, June 24th at 6pm on Zoom.